

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04 GAC-01 RSR-01 /112 W

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R 031554 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4251

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GR

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ARREST OF TSATSOS AND TSOUDEROS
AND SCHEEL VISIT TO GREECE

REF: A. ATHENS 8872; B. ATHENS 8896

1. THE ARREST OF PROFESSOR TSATSOS LED TO A
DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE GREEK EMBASSY IN BONN ON
MARCH 30 BY APPROXIMATELY 100 BONN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
CARRYING PLACARDS CALLING FOR TSATSOS' RELEASE AND THE
PROHIBITION OF ALL " FASCIST GREEK ORGANIZATIONS" IN
THE FRG. THE ARRESTS HAVE RECEIVED MODERATE MEDIA
COVERAGE, MOST OF IT STRAIGHT REPORTING.

2. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS SAID OFFICIALLY MERELY
THAT IT IS AWARE OF THE EVENT AND HOPES TO RECEIVE
MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN
ATHENS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS NOT REFERRED TO THE
TSOUDEROS CASE AT ALL AND PRIVATELY CONFIRMS THAT
THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO CASES NOTED IN
PARA. 5 OF REFTTEL B DOES OBTAIN.

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3. SINCE THE ARREST OF TSATSOS, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION HERE CONCERNING THE PLANNED VISIT TO GREECE BY FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AT HIS APRIL 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, FRG SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR SAID THAT A TRIP TO GREECE BY SCHEEL IS AT PRESENT NOT BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED. WECHMAR SAID SUCH A VISIT ALSO IS NOT ANTICIPATED BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY SUMMER PAUSE. THERE IS HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH A TRIP COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR. SO FAR, SAID VON WECHMAR, NO DATE FOR SUCH A VISIT HAS BEEN SET.

3. SPD HEADQUARTERS HAS PUBLICLY REGRETTED THE ARREST OF TSATSOS AND SAID THAT IT IS CONTRARY TO PROMISES OF LIBERALIZATION IN GREECE, BUT AN SPD HEADQUARTERS OFFICIAL HAS ALSO TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT SYMPATHY FOR TSATSOS WITHIN THE PARTY IS NOT AS WIDESPREAD AS IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE HIS RETURN TO GREECE WAS CONSIDERED PROVOCATION.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, GW
To: ANKARA
ATHENS
NATO BRUSSELS
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